

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Date: June 23, 2006
For immediate release

Contact: Ed Pratt
(225) 219-0679

Seasonal Summer Employment Trends Begin

The Louisiana Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), continues to closely monitor the economic impact of the recent hurricanes on the business and household surveys in the affected parishes. In producing the post-hurricane estimates, BLS announced that a number of modifications were made to standard estimating procedures to better reflect the employment part of the civilian labor force estimates. For a detailed explanation of the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on all of the BLS program's methodology, please go to <http://stats.bls.gov/katrina/cpscesquestions.htm>.

BATON ROUGE – The state's unemployment rate for May 2006 increased less than half of a percent to 5.2 percent from April's rate of 4.8 percent. The year ago revised May unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

"May marks the first wave of individuals out of school and entering the labor force to look for summer employment, causing unemployment to increase," said Secretary of Labor John Warner Smith. "The positive note is that nonfarm employment added 8,100 workers over the month. We expect more jobs to be filled by out-of-school individuals wanting to work."

The state's civilian labor force for May 2006 increased to 1,876,778, up from 1,872,671 in April. The number of employed in May fell to 1,778,303, from 1,782,608 in April. Louisiana's unemployed for May was 98,475, up from 90,063 in April. Nationally, the unemployment rate at 4.6 percent for May 2006 decreased from 4.7 percent in April, and was below the year-ago level of 5.1 percent.

Unadjusted unemployment rates compare parishes and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to the state. The May 2006 unadjusted unemployment rate for Louisiana was 4.8 percent, up from the April's rate of 4.1 percent. The unemployment rates for the MSAs were: Alexandria, 4.0 percent, up from 3.4 percent in April; Baton Rouge, 4.4 up from 3.7; Houma, 3.7, up from 3.1; Lafayette, 3.4, up from 2.9; Lake Charles, 3.8, up from 3.2; Monroe, 4.3, up from 3.6; New Orleans, 6.4, up from 5.7; and Shreveport-Bossier City, 4.3, up from 3.6 percent last month. Cameron Parish had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.1 percent in May, while East Carroll Parish had the highest rate at 9.6 percent.

Preliminary seasonally adjusted statewide total nonfarm employment for May 2006 was 1,769,100 compared to 1,761,000 for the revised April 2006 figure, for an increase of 8,100 workers. The sector breakdown was as follows: natural resources and mining, 47,700 employed in May, up from 47,600 employed in April; construction, 107,600, up from 107,000; manufacturing, 143,800, remained unchanged; trade, transportation, and utilities, 364,000, up from 361,600; information, 27,400, down from 28,100; financial activities, 94,900, up from 94,300; professional and business services, 172,200, up from 168,900; educational and health services, 212,000, up from 209,900; leisure and hospitality, 172,500, up from 171,400; other services, 58,200, down from 58,300; and government, 368,800, down from 370,100 for the revised April figure.

For more detailed information on the May 2006 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.LAWORKS.net, scroll over the tab at the top of the page for Labor Market Information, click on Publications & Reports, and select LMI Bulletin.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	May 2006			April 2006			May 2005		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	144,041,000	6,655,000	4.4	143,405,000	6,804,000	4.5	141,591,000	7,287,000	4.9
LOUISIANA	1,784,516	90,481	4.8	1,785,879	76,683	4.1	2,005,898	107,801	5.1
ALEXANDRIA MSA	64,366	2,698	4.0	63,677	2,225	3.4	64,100	3,346	5.0
Grant	8,006	357	4.3	7,921	287	3.5	7,973	465	5.5
Rapides	56,360	2,341	4.0	55,756	1,938	3.4	56,127	2,881	4.9
BATON ROUGE MSA	339,329	15,661	4.4	340,898	13,266	3.7	337,958	18,197	5.1
Ascension	41,794	1,895	4.3	41,987	1,576	3.6	41,625	2,077	4.8
East Baton Rouge	201,325	8,987	4.3	202,256	7,796	3.7	200,512	10,461	5.0
East Feliciana	7,792	396	4.8	7,828	335	4.1	7,761	470	5.7
Iberville	11,665	795	6.4	11,719	649	5.2	11,618	918	7.3
Livingston	49,181	2,069	4.0	49,409	1,694	3.3	48,983	2,374	4.6
Pointe Coupee	9,222	456	4.7	9,265	379	3.9	9,185	666	6.8
St. Helena	3,823	343	8.2	3,841	293	7.1	3,808	363	8.7
West Baton Rouge	9,961	460	4.4	10,007	364	3.5	9,921	584	5.6
West Feliciana	4,566	260	5.4	4,587	180	3.8	4,547	285	5.9
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE-THIBODAUX MSA	88,531	3,399	3.7	89,058	2,829	3.1	91,410	4,246	4.4
Lafourche	42,008	1,549	3.6	42,258	1,198	2.8	43,374	1,929	4.3
Terrebonne	46,523	1,850	3.8	46,800	1,631	3.4	48,036	2,317	4.6
LAFAYETTE MSA	120,358	4,267	3.4	120,276	3,530	2.9	119,637	5,207	4.2
Lafayette	98,813	3,407	3.3	98,745	2,786	2.7	98,221	4,151	4.1
St. Martin	21,545	860	3.8	21,531	744	3.3	21,416	1,056	4.7
LAKE CHARLES MSA	87,715	3,508	3.8	88,108	2,870	3.2	91,408	4,612	4.8
Calcasieu	83,485	3,371	3.9	83,859	2,753	3.2	87,000	4,434	4.8
Cameron	4,230	137	3.1	4,249	117	2.7	4,408	178	3.9
MONROE MSA	76,736	3,482	4.3	77,143	2,909	3.6	78,466	4,454	5.4
Ouachita	67,074	3,023	4.3	67,429	2,502	3.6	68,586	3,810	5.3
Union	9,662	459	4.5	9,714	407	4.0	9,880	644	6.1
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE-KENNER MSA	404,498	27,518	6.4	401,646	24,077	5.7	610,595	30,281	4.7
Jefferson	Household sample data were not available.						225,264	10,341	4.4
New Orleans City/Orleans							194,683	11,561	5.6
Plaquemines							11,479	539	4.5
St. Bernard							30,418	1,633	5.1
St. Charles							23,963	1,147	4.6
St. John Baptist							20,138	1,181	5.5
St. Tammany							104,649	3,878	3.6
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	170,329	7,635	4.3	170,180	6,289	3.6	171,053	9,333	5.2
Bossier	48,393	1,848	3.7	48,351	1,511	3.0	48,599	2,291	4.5
Caddo	111,287	5,239	4.5	111,189	4,336	3.8	111,760	6,365	5.4
De Soto	10,649	547	4.9	10,640	442	4.0	10,694	677	6.0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	May 2006			April 2006			May 2005		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	23,432	952	3.9	23,694	779	3.2	23,606	1,266	5.1
Allen	7,722	442	5.4	7,740	342	4.2	7,931	613	7.2
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	8,934	576	6.1	9,046	460	4.8	9,157	756	7.6
Avoyelles	14,720	793	5.1	14,880	654	4.2	14,760	1,014	6.4
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,552	592	4.2	13,369	481	3.5	13,535	789	5.5
Bienville	5,828	302	4.9	5,809	252	4.2	5,902	451	7.1
Caldwell	4,028	201	4.8	4,137	154	3.6	4,064	289	6.6
Catahoula	3,896	230	5.6	4,040	200	4.7	3,910	267	6.4
Claiborne	6,473	331	4.9	6,482	256	3.8	6,548	402	5.8
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,567	477	6.8	6,655	432	6.1	6,627	558	7.8
East Carroll	2,534	269	9.6	2,613	242	8.5	2,602	345	11.7
Evangeline	11,168	550	4.7	11,301	443	3.8	11,383	709	5.9
Franklin	7,024	502	6.7	7,371	427	5.5	7,258	590	7.5
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	30,134	1,308	4.2	30,260	1,080	3.4	30,464	1,758	5.5
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	6,132	250	3.9	6,061	218	3.5	6,172	337	5.2
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,314	483	3.5	13,265	379	2.8	13,568	649	4.6
La Salle	5,609	211	3.6	5,558	156	2.7	5,535	285	4.9
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,584	830	4.5	17,379	671	3.7	17,697	1,002	5.4
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,263	304	6.7	4,179	259	5.8	4,366	391	8.2
Morehouse ¹	10,672	747	6.5	10,761	628	5.5	10,945	955	8.0
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	17,103	811	4.5	17,221	680	3.8	16,963	1,019	5.7
Red River	3,005	190	5.9	3,085	167	5.1	3,088	275	8.2
Richland	7,761	440	5.4	7,972	381	4.6	7,964	578	6.8
Sabine	8,911	349	3.8	9,000	280	3.0	9,071	485	5.1
St. James	7,581	571	7.0	7,619	460	5.7	8,331	681	7.6
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,398	1,683	4.7	34,429	1,404	3.9	34,469	2,048	5.6
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	19,704	1,139	5.5	19,908	984	4.7	20,363	1,622	7.4
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	44,076	2,495	5.4	44,378	2,185	4.7	46,781	2,604	5.3
Tensas	1,941	193	9.0	2,090	186	8.2	2,062	175	7.8
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	22,233	897	3.9	22,022	777	3.4	22,307	1,155	4.9
Vernon (Fort Port South) ¹	19,943	862	4.1	20,166	688	3.3	20,165	1,040	4.9
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	14,031	877	5.9	13,853	758	5.2	15,233	1,046	6.4
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,520	826	4.3	18,410	693	3.6	18,325	1,143	5.9
West Carroll	4,198	327	7.2	4,395	296	6.3	4,256	461	9.8
Winn	5,664	302	5.1	5,742	237	4.0	5,864	365	5.9

¹In addition to the eight (8) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Louisiana, there are seventeen (17) Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCs): Jackson and Lincoln Parishes combine to constitute the Ruston MC area. Civilian Labor Force can be derived by adding employed and unemployed. For related information or data, please visit:

www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm.